

Mouth of The River

Issue 2

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December 22, 1992

Souhegan Challenges Traditional HS Concept

by Andy Dumont

A new high school opened this fall in N.H., and it isn't only the building that is new. Souhegan High School of Amherst, N.H., is based on teamwork, a spirit of shared responsibility, community and a much closer relationship among students and teachers.

This school has been in the makings for the past couple of years in order to take some of the population pressure off some of the areas larger schools such as Milford High School. Souhegan was designed to be more comfortable as well as more relaxing. Souhegan senior Dan Katzenberg said, "The Atmosphere is a lot more relaxed here, it makes learning fun." The school is designed so that there is a lot of places for students to "hang out" and or do homework. The school is fully carpeted and has many luxuries such as a training room with whirlpools in them.

Reforming the traditional style of learning involves primarily freshmen and sophomores. For the 9th and 10th graders the morning involves going to a science and math block with math and science combined. The freshmen and sophomores are divided into teams, and attend classes in these groups. The lowest grade received is a C, a lower grade would be an incomplete. A lot of students find this concept takes the pressure off and makes learning more enjoyable.

More responsibility is given to Souhegan students and they have a say in the administrations motives. For example students wrote the student handbook. Another example is community council which is like our school board but is made up of 50% students. Elections for the board were held on Dec. 10th and candidates were posed questions by the student body.

☆ Souhegan cont. pg 2 ☆



Six of the thirteen cast members in a scene from the fall play "Any Number Can Die." (L to R) Abby Smith (back to camera), Briana Campbell, Seth DeForest (standing), Dan Gerard, Shawn Currey and John Hill. (Photo by Joel Preston)

Any Number Can Die Draws Nearly 500

by Tamara Collins

The fall play "Any Number Can Die" produced a turn out of 488 people attending over 3 nights, 45 of which were faculty and their spouses. Mr. Tappan said that attendance at the play was not a record breaker, but good.

The costs of production exceeded the income of the play by approximately \$300, but "we built all new scenery flats from scratch", commented director Tappan. "The scenery will be reused for many years to come". Costs of the play included the rented sound system (\$300), breakaway bottles (\$48), the rented lightning effect (\$50), the lumber to build the scenery with (\$472), and the fabric for covering the scenery was two hundred dollars.

Some students active in drama expressed surprise that so many new students to the stage were casted in 13 roles. The fall play has traditionally

been dominated by veterans, especially seniors. Mr. Tappan said "some students had gotten used to the fall play being the veterans show. I decided that since there is likely to be 5 senior directed plays this year that the veterans would have more than their share of opportunities. I wanted to have new faces from a wide array of social groups in the building". Six out of 13 actors had no high school stage experience, and out of the other seven another 4 had never had a major role. Ten out of 13 were not veteran leads.

Before the opening night of the play a few people were interviewed to express what they expected the play to be like, and their opinion of the play. "I think that it is going to be a hilarious performance done by superior actors" said Chris Davis, sophomore. "I think that the play is going to cause a big increase in the drama dept. in coming years" said Bill Simmons, senior lighting assistant.

Convincer Stresses the Need For Seatbelts

by Joel Preston

The majority of O.R. students who were strapped into the "Convincer" were indeed convinced that they should wear seatbelts.

The Convincer is a head on crash simulator which tours from school to school demonstrating the importance of wearing seatbelts.

The Convincer was run by William Simons from the Dover Police Department who also owns the

simulator. The Highway Patrol organizes the convincer and sponsors where it will go for presentation. The Highway Patrol is the major organizer of the equipment and the films that are shown with the demonstration of the machine. The simulator was developed by N.I.T.S.A. a company from Kentucky.

The presentation that was given in the gym to the groups of students during fifth, sixth, and seventh period showed a film that contained the ever so popular crash dummies. It also showed a head on

accident taped live. A company was taping for a commercial when they captured the unexpected event. The car flipped and crushed the driver. The driver wasn't wearing a seatbelt. Simons' said the seatbelt would have kept her in her seat, and kept her from being crushed by the rolling car.

The main purpose of a seatbelt is to keep the person in the seat. This keeps the person from getting injuries from bouncing or flying out of the car.

About fifty to sixty students participated in the event said Mandy Tolson, a leader of S.A.D.D.

Wanda Magoon said she found the jolt exciting but she always wears her seatbelt. She got into an accident once and it was a lot worse than the simulator, as most accidents would be. She wears her seatbelt so she doesn't smash her head. "Better safe than sorry." explains Wand.

Craig Allen said he thought the convincer was

☆ Convincer cont. pg 3 ☆



Freshman Jessica Foster rides the "Convincer" in the Dover P.D. safety demo. (Preston photo).

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Performing Arts Council sets goals

by Todd Whitford

Have you heard of the Performing Arts Council? Most people have. Do you know what it is for? If not, don't worry, most people don't. Even the members of the council have a hard time deciding what it is all about.

The council is made up of ten members: seniors Gabe Brown, Owain Harris, Amy Ulrich, Joe Burke; junior Kasey Evans; sophomores Larissa Crockett & Lindsey Oakes; and freshmen Robyn Jerard & Ben Rous. Jessica Surdam, who was elected to the council, recently moved to Florida, so her position is open. According to Owain Harris, the council will accept applications from all classes to fill the open position. Owain is the president of the council, but not in the normal sense of the word. He fills the roles of moderator, organizer, go-between between Mr. Tappan and the council, and a tie breaker. He only gets to vote if certain conditions are met. First of all, there has to be an even number (2, 4, 6 or 8) of members present at the meeting. Second, there has to be the possibility of a tie arising. If both of those conditions are met, then he can vote, but not after the fact. Owain votes with the rest of the council so there isn't any pressure from either side. Also, this makes it so no one knows how Owain voted, thus taking away the chance for hard feelings.

So far in the meetings, the council has spent most of its time working on a constitution, which will set out guidelines and rules for the council to follow.

Once this is finished, the council can get to work on some of its goals. The main goal, according to Kasey, is "To increase the awareness and role of the Performing Arts in the school." She also comments on the fact that if athletics, which has a 25% student involvement, has a council especially for it, then the Performing Arts, which also involves a large percentage of the school, should have a governing body as well.

Another goal, according to Larissa, is to help the Performing Arts in any way they can, whether it's by helping to raise money, increasing advertising, bringing in outside performers from places like

UNH, or by bringing in professionals to help teach the students. This was done for the fall play "Any Number Can Die", when a professional stage make up artist came in and taught the make up crew how to properly apply stage make up.

A third thing which is a big concern to the council is the subject of Senior directed plays. Every year, interested seniors submit applications to direct a play. Normally, Mr. Tappan reviews the applications and chooses three seniors, who he feels are qualified, to direct their choice of a play. This year, however, the council will also look at the applications, and make a recommendation to Mr. Tappan on who they feel is the most qualified, although the final decision is Mr. Tappan's.

The council hopes to make this year a sort of "trial run" to iron out all the wrinkles so it can become an important part in the performing arts in years to come.

Souhegan from pg 1

This new school system is based on Brown University professor

Ted Sizer's book *Horace's Compromise*. If this school were to be run exactly from his book, students would play a big role in the school. For example students would do all the maintenance and they would cook the food. These are not done at Souhegan, but might be done in the future.

Even though it's a new system it has been effective without too much trouble. "A lot of the freshmen like the new system but they don't know any better. A lot of the sophomores don't like it at all." Souhegan junior Jamie Alualikis said.

Souhegan does have its problems as well. For example they have a really big problem with stealing. The lockers at Souhegan do not have locks on them and a lot of students have been taking advantage of this.

An experimental concept is an outside smoking section. The section is supposed to be only for students over the age of 18, but freshmen Wendy Brown said, "The teachers don't check how old you are. Teachers smoke out there with you. But the good thing is there is no smoking in the school building."

This new style of school will be under a fine magnifying glass by many other schools that are considering trying this new idea of learning.

Sadie Hawkins: Fun in the Snow?

by Quincy Souza

Despite a snow storm almost canceling the event, the majority of the couples still attended the Sadie Hawkins' dance on Friday, December 11th.

As a result of the storm many student council members were surprised at the turnout. Freshman student council rep. Laurie McDowell commented, "The people who didn't come had thought that it was canceled, but the majority did come." Sophomore rep. Aaron Tyler added, "We didn't expect everyone to come because we knew of the bad weather, and we figured that there would be less."

The general consensus of the people attending the dance was the weather was treacherous enough for it to be canceled. Junior Matt Blasik said, "The driving was really bad, the dance shouldn't have happened." Dan Hodsdon added, "It should have been canceled, you had to be careful when your driving and a lot of people didn't do that."

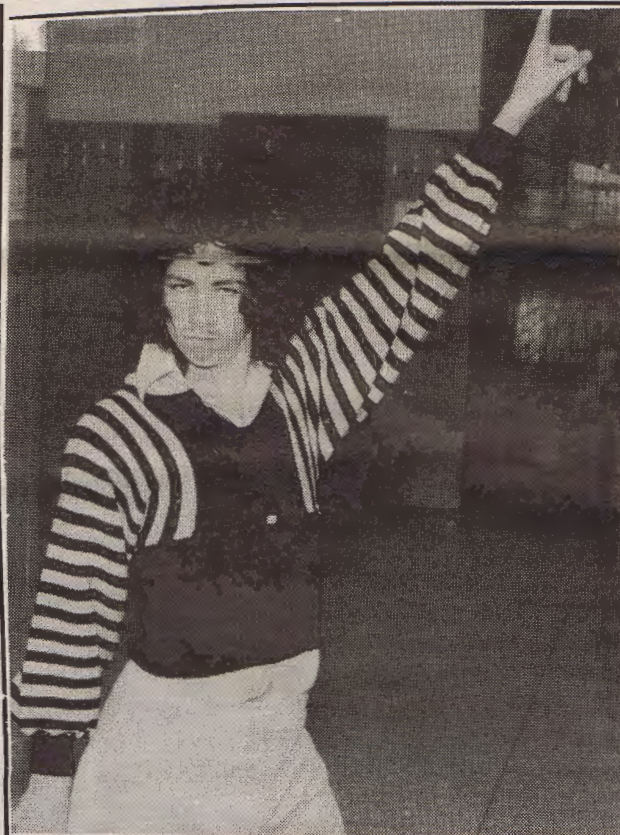
Many students felt disappointment considering the dance was so costly. The price for one couple was \$12. Lori Andersen and Melanie Chase said, "It was similar to the sophomore dance except we were all dressed up." Dan Gault added, "It should have been in a different location, with better decorations, and a smaller price."

Other unusual problems that occurred were that the speakers blew a fuse for about 5-10 minutes. DJ Chris Hansen explained, "We tried playing a tape in a boom box and the volume on the box was all the way up so there was a power surge to the amp." He continued, "We thought that it was over but thanks to Andy and Mark we were able to get two fuses." Another problem was the amount of food that was there. Ryan Bellabona replied, "There wasn't enough food there, and the parents just figured that it was canceled or that were not that many people, so, we had a shortage."

Another common complaint is the fact that Sadie's is a special dance yet it is held in the cafeteria. Junior Matt Blasik replied, "We should have it somewhere nicer, it's a rip off paying \$12 for a dance that is just like every other dance." He added, "It should be less than \$8 or we should pay more and have it somewhere more special." According to Student Council Vice-President Nicole Bellabona, "The only places we could have had it was at the MUB which was too big or the Tin Palace which was too small. So the only other choice was the cafeteria."



HAPPY HOLIDAYS
FROM
THE MOUTH OF THE RIVER STAFF



Dan Gault "styles" for Halloween

School Board Voted Down

by Joe Burke

Currently there is no plan for dealing with the long range overcrowding of the schools. At this point there needs to be a solution. For next year the current plan, modular classrooms, must be installed at the middle school level.

After the recent district vote it's back to the drawing board for school officials. The 37% vote for the reconstruction plan to 63% against, was apparently a message "think again". As a result the school board and administrators are gathering new ideas to make plans to deal with the apparent overcrowding problems at Oyster River.

Over-crowding is a big problem for administrators. Mrs. Brown commented "As the student population grows, individual classes become crowded. The core facility: gym, cafeteria, library, will become more and more crowded, fewer lockers; halls will become jammed with traffic, and teachers won't be able to have their own rooms. All these factors will make us feel compressed like sardines in a can, and I think that will raise the stress level of both students and teachers."

School Board cont. pg 9

Board Nixes Condoms

by Colleen O'Day

On Wednesday, December 2, the school board denied the proposal to make condoms generally available to students at Oyster River High School. Stating the board's reasoning, chairperson Martie Gooze said, "We felt that putting a condom machine in the school would not solve the problem of responsible sexuality." The decision has renewed student and faculty interest throughout the school.

"I think that ultimately the board felt that if they had provided condoms for high school students it would have been infringing on personal and family responsibility. I think that they see that safe sex education is partly the function of the school but that actually providing the condoms is outside of the

school's realm of responsibility," commented Ms. Brown. In the opinion of the school nurse, the school avoided potential legal and personal issues with in the community by prohibiting condom distribution. "I think they took the safe route as they see it," stated Mrs. Reeves.

Some members of the faculty disagreed with the board's decision. "I believe students should be able to purchase condoms from the nurse at school, they should also have to speak with the nurse or the health educators about the various consequences of having sex," commented Mr. Mroz.

Other members of the faculty, however, felt that the school board had made a wise decision in not permitting the school to make condom machines available to the students. "I haven't read the complete statement by the board, but I believe that

Community Service: Helping Oyster River

by Julie Pemberton and Aaron Tyler

New activities and stronger involvement by the students has boosted the morale of OR's community service coordinators according to Ms. Williams. This has happened because of new activities that are being presented which have increased the interest of the coordinators.

A community service program totally run by the students is reaching out to people around the community. This year new services include Hospice, a program to meet the needs of terminally ill patients, and Community Connection, a program designed to give to specific families in need. They have been added to the former ones such as, the Big Buddy Program, Soup Kitchen, Friend to the Elderly, Safe Place, Cocheco Valley Humane Society, and Peer Tutor. According to Ms. Williams, 32 students are working together on OR's newly expanded service project. More students are looking into the program.

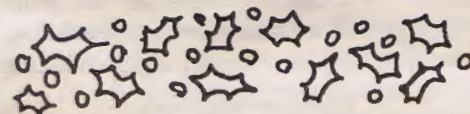
"I'd like to be a Big Sister," said Lori Andersen a junior at Oyster River. "I think it will help me get involved with children, and since I want to be a school teacher it will give me good experience."

Amanda McAuley, a student already involved with the soup kitchen, said, "It's a really powerful experience that I think everyone should go through at least once."

Alexia Taylor, another student involved last year in the Big Buddy project, said, "It's nice to be appreciated by someone younger than yourself."

One major setback of the program at OR is that it does not get enough publicity, both Jillian Downey and Kelly DeForest commented. However, a man who was served at the Portsmouth Soup Kitchen said, "I feel that the meals are great and the smiles on the youngsters faces really brighten my day." Service coordinator Karen Dulin, said, "You can tell that everyone really appreciates what you are doing for them by the comments or smiles you receive." The program, which started five years ago, has "expanded the vision of what the real world is about," Ms.

Williams said. "It helps students to understand the quality of life and how to make certain choices." The coordinators Vonda Wells, Christie Wozniak, Shirley Woodward, Tricia Khleif, Amy Swift, Karen Dulin, Karen Wourgiotis, Kelly DeForest and Kim Golding, spend time organizing groups of people to go to the Soup Kitchen and other service places. They organize parent chaperons and drivers and work to create volunteer activities students will be interested in. Christie Wozniak mentioned "the program at ORHS is here to try to make a difference in today's society. Whether it's serving a warm meal to an unfortunate individual or spending time with an elderly person, every little bit is appreciated."



Math Team Tops Division at Masconomet

by Owen Bruder and Chris Hansen

The math team bounced back to win their most recent meet after being unsuccessful in their first two attempts.

In the first meet, at Winnacunnet, they came in 2nd in their division and 5th in the overall meet. The second meet took place at Oyster River and they finished with the same results. It wasn't until the December 2nd when they travelled to Masconomet to come in 1st in their division and win the overall meet. "The win at Masconomet was a big turnover in the season, it gave the team an uplift of confidence," said head coach Peter Stoykavich. This is a slow start for a team who last year were the state champions in their division.

The win was led by Patrick Russell and Molly Capron. Patrick is tied for the best total score

in the state. Other contributors to win were Kyle Krouse, Mike Northrop, Bill Simmons, Kasey Evans, Megan Frazier, Jeff Lang, Lindsey Oakes, and Kevin Russell.

According to Bill Simmons, the team is open to everyone, you don't have to be at every meet to be part of the team. At the meets mathletes are assigned to three out of the five individual categories. They get three questions in each category to try to answer. The categories differ from meet to meet, ranging from arithmetic to exponents and radicals to sequences & series. Each question is worth three points. Each person has a time limit of ten minutes in each category to answer the questions. Then there is the team competition at the end, which they are given five questions, one from each category. These questions are also worth three points. There are only ten minutes to answer each question.



Liz Fernald, Jen Friel, and Stefany Shaheen show team spirit.

Convincer from pg 1

slow. It didn't shock him but it "convinced" him of the need for seatbelts. If one wasn't worn then a rider probably would have gone face first into the front panel of the convincer. "I do wear my seatbelt

all the time because it has become habit. Everyone should because it's safe. Some day it could save your life, and if the seatbelt fails, and you live you get the thousand dollars from the company," further explains Allen.

Many of the riders said that they do wear their seatbelt.

Simons says he doesn't ask students if they wear their seatbelts because it puts many on the defensive side, but many more people are wearing their seatbelts. The percentage of seatbelt use was fourteen about two years ago but is now fifty.

Mike Ross said "The ride was quite convincing, only at seven mph, it gave a good thrust forward. But I still don't wear my seatbelt all the time

because it has become habit not to."

Kim Goodman also doesn't wear her seatbelt all the time because she says "sometimes it's a pain, and it's constrictive. "Ken Gowen says he doesn't because "it's a pain in the !!!."

The "Convincer" crash simulator was sponsored by S.A.D.D. and the Durham Police Department.

Simons says "Many people are surprised with the convincer, they say that they never knew it could be this bad."

Fortyfive thousand people die a year, half of them could have survived if only they wore their seatbelt, according to Simons. He has also been with the Dover Police Department for six years and has been to 300-400 car accidents. There were eighthundred fifty-nine crashes in Dover alone. Eight out of ten of them could have sustained fewer injuries if a seatbelt was worn. "It's bad to see that many people could have been fine, if only they wore their seatbelt," says Simons.



Bill Clinton gets Down with his Democratic Congress

COC: Voice Tests All Bounds

The C.O.C....need I say more? In recent week's this publication has become a literary force in Oyster River. What makes the C.O.C. (Corrosion of Complaints) unique is how they've done something many people haven't...they use their freedom of speech. This is why the C.O.C. has become big in O.R. Students like being able to write and publish their views without being censored by the school. It's a place where student's can rebel through their writing; that's the whole reason for it's creation. It's an alternative newspaper and is not expected to be like M.O.R. or Mind's Eye. They have their own ideas and ways of expressing them.

The C.O.C. focuses on problems in the school and they voice their opinion on what should be done. Such problems include the condition of the bathrooms and the appearance of the school. At the same time, it is a place for creative writing that the staffers write or that is submitted by other students.

The C.O.C. also responds to student views. When there were comments about the writing being too negative and on the edge of suicidal, the C.O.C. responded by toning down their writing without losing their message. They are very much in touch with the student body.

Recently the C.O.C. have come under fire for a couple of issues. One is a problem has to do with the paper being sold on school grounds. Nothing can be sold on school grounds without the permission of the school board, which hasn't been given. There's a real simple solution to that, sell it off school grounds. If the students want it bad enough they'll get somewhere else. The second issue is that of vulgarity in the paper. Some people have problems with language used in some of the pieces printed in the C.O.C. There is another simple solution to that problem, DON'T BUY IT! You don't have to fork over a quarter to the C.O.C. to buy the paper. I doubt people are holding you down and making you read vulgar writing. Another problem has to do with the next issue. It has been advertised as a "swim suit" issue. What this issue has to do with freedom of speech, has many administrators in confusion. Is it possible that C.O.C. has stepped over their own boundaries? So far the faculty has dealt very sparingly with the paper, might this change that response?

All in all the concept of the C.O.C. is very respectable. They make valid points about school life and how it should be changed. What could be changed is their methods for conveying those points? The C.O.C. could cut down on the amounts of vulgarity and maybe the administration wouldn't have a problem with it. If the material of the article could somehow remain "reasonable", then maybe the paper could apply for permission to sell on school grounds. Then selling the paper on school grounds wouldn't be wrong. We at MOUTH OF THE RIVER would like to hear your responses and comments. Address them to MOUTH OF THE RIVER
C/O MOR Editors.

The C.O.C., the "underground" newspaper that claims to be this new and innovative paper that can say things that can not be said anywhere else. It looks to me like nothing more than a bunch of kids playing with a typewriter and xerox machine, thinking they are special because they can do and say what they want. But when are they going to say something? Anything? So far, they haven't said anything we haven't heard before. All they have done is write a plethora of swear words and a terribly uncreative list of things to do over the holiday season. And now they are coming out with a swimsuit issue. What is the purpose of this? On the back of their last issue, when they asked for the volunteers for the issue, they proposed the question if the young men and women of the nineties were tired of being treated like a piece of meat. But isn't that what this swimsuit issue is all about? Treating people like pieces of meat. The C.O.C. has tried to make their image that of those against the expectations of society yet here they are endorsing one of the biggest problems society has - judging people by their looks and appearance. The C.O.C. needs to sit down and decide what they believe in and what they stand for.

As of now, the administration has not done anything, but I have a feeling that this swimsuit issue will be the straw to break the camel's back. And why shouldn't it? Where will the line be drawn about what is decent. When the C.O.C. is stopped, all of the followers are going to go up in arms about how the administration is just trying to shut them up and quiet their opinions. That is not the reason at all. There are laws in the way of the C.O.C., not the administration of Oyster River. In the first place, it is illegal to distribute this paper on school grounds. Secondly, the C.O.C. is playing with child pornography. For the most part, their models are under 18.

There is nothing wrong with voicing your opinions and grievances, but a line needs to be drawn between unedited student work and outright indecency. And I think that the C.O.C. has overstepped those boundaries.

OP/IED

Dark Omens or Bright Prospects: The Clinton Presidency

THE BAD....

by Phil Nazzaro

Well, there is no denying it, Bill Clinton has been elected to the office of president of the United States. Now all of America has to live with a choice that only 44% of the voters agreed with. But let us not look back upon the past, let us look towards the future; a future full of international disasters, economic downturns, and internal strife.

Bill Clinton (the governor of a state that has less people than Los Angeles and handles less money than "Toys 'R Us") must now juggle a sluggish economy, a fluctuating job market, and an eye-popping amount of social problems; all the while attempting to tame the monstrous national debt. As soon as he enters office Mr. Clinton will be treading on thin ice, and he is a very big man!

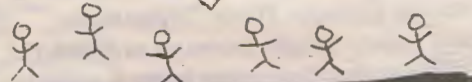
Since he spent about 99.9999999% of his time campaigning on domestic problems, let's see exactly what "Backwater Bill" is going to do for our dear old US of A. Everything on his domestic agenda has one common thread: government involvement. Sure "Willie the Dictator" would like the government to get involved with every aspect of our lives, making every single decision for us down to what underwear we should wear, but his plans are not going to work for two simple reasons.

First of all the ever present, five letter word: TAXES. Let's assume that for the first time in his life Clinton keeps his word and implements his plans with only raising taxes on those who make over \$200,000. The problem is that this will not even come close to paying off all of his programs. So he faces a choice, either watch the national debt double over his term of office or raise taxes on everyone making \$36,000 or more, not even "Slick Willie" can argue with mathematics.

Dark Omens cont. pg 5

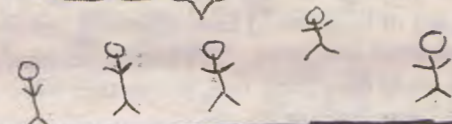
DEMOCRATS

It's about time for another Democrat in office.



REPUBLICANS

OH NO!



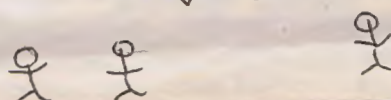
PEROT SUPPORTERS

If only we had spent another \$6 million



STUDENTS

Finally a president that smokes pot!



THE GOOD....

by Dave Curtis

Welcome, come one come all, January 20 I wish you welcome to the first day of the rest of your life. We as students should be thankful that Governor Clinton to that noble office.

What is the number one thing on most seniors minds this year? College, getting accepted and how to pay for another four years (at least) of education. Under Clinton's plan, he wants to make so that if you want to go to college for a considerable discount, all you would have to do is promise to teach or work in some other form of public office for a few years. I believe this is just one example of how Clinton will help this country improve for the future. If our children have a better education, they will be able to work more efficiently as they grow up.

This could also make it much easier for students to go to college. By not worrying about paying for college, more students will be able to attend. This could also increase the number of teachers the U.S. has. The more teachers the smaller the classes. In my opinion smaller classes provide a better education.

The more we educate people, the more of the population we have working towards making the U.S. a better place to live. By educating people we also teach them to open their minds to new ideas and ways of thinking. The more the mind is used, the more powerful it gets.

In order to bring money into this country, the Democrats have to create more jobs. They must make it easier for U.S. companies to compete in foreign markets, while at the same time keep their factories in this country. They must improve relations with foreign companies to encourage a two way trade rather than the, import more, export less ways

Bright Prospects cont. pg 5

IS OYSTER RIVER CONFRONTING STUDENTS' SOCIAL PROBLEMS?

Commentary by Chris Hansen

Many Oyster River High School students smoke in the bathrooms, drink, and do drugs. To the general public this might not sound like the Oyster River they know. Oyster River students are thought of as "good" kids that don't vandalize, smoke, or abuse drugs. Some students suspect that the administration or school board may be more concerned with image than reality.

The school district administration won't institute the D.A.R.E. program. At the Mast Way Elementary School, a certified Lee police officer volunteered to start the program, but he was turned down. "Local police and local Rotary programs have been pushing to put in the D.A.R.E. program into the elementary schools. The response of the elementary schools principals, superintendent, and the school board has been that we already have our own drug and alcohol abuse program in the elementary curriculum and that " the D.A.R.E. program would be a duplication," said Ms. Brown.

Yet, there are middle schoolers smoking cigarettes, smoking marijuana, and dosing on acid. D.A.R.E. would offer additional education and enforce in the minds of students the dangers of drugs.

"I know drugs and alcohol are present in the school," said senior James Walsh. Even students say that we don't have a drug and alcohol problem here, but the stuff is present."

The high school administration acknowledges the problem. Principal Ann Brown commented, "Our students drink."

Dark Omens cont. from 4

Second, we cannot ignore what his "Clintonomics" (based on increased government) will do to the economy. Whenever the government gets involved with something it adds an extra variable, therefore increasing the chances of something going wrong. Historically this scenario has played itself out time and time again. The misery caused by the Johnson and Carter administrations alone is the sole reason the White House has eluded the Democrats for basically 20 straight years.

With all these problems, plus literally hundreds more, on the homefront the last thing "Baby Boy Bill" wants to hear about is his on the job lessons in "World Crises 101", especially when the classroom is the Somalian plains or the mountains of Serbia. The Republicans have kept the United States heavily involved on the international scene. Now with "Outback Bill" assuming the Oval Office, the US will be pulled out of most of its present roles in the world today. With this we will undoubtedly see countless hostile governments flourishing and the fragile world economy tailspin into the toiletbowl of depression.

So as we embark on a journey into the future, we must realize that we are being led by a man who doesn't have the character to recognize the problems nor the courage and integrity to address them. So hang on to your wallet and get ready for a bumpy ride. All we can pray for is that Clinton doesn't get us so deeply mired in trouble that in 1996 it destroys any chance a NEW President (no matter how conservative) will have of saving this great country.

According to Mrs. Reeves, the school nurse, the percentage of students drinking is high, although there are no exact figures. It is also about the same as last year. Mandy Tolson added that in the past few years drinking among the students has become worse than it was five years ago. Students don't necessarily agree that the problem is worse this year, but they acknowledge that drinking is widespread and often excessive.

"At most parties I go to most people are drinking, but it's not as bad as it was last year," said Junior Jake Crosby. Anyone who as ever been to any party around town can see that there are more than just a few students out there that are drinking.

Last year a survey conducted at OR by UNH, 90.2% of the females and 82.2% of the males surveyed said that they have at one time or another consumed alcohol. On the state level, 84.5% of the students surveyed by the New Hampshire Comprehensive Guidance and Counseling Program, Inc. through out NH said they have had at least one drink of alcohol on one or more occasions during their life. Ms. Brown also said that about four or five students last year were dismissed from dances because of use of alcohol.

"I think that our students are involved in drug use," said Ms. Brown. "I know that the number of people doing drugs this year decreased an incredible amount since last year," said Junior Colleen O'Day, although the number of people smoking pot is the same." Mrs. Reeves said that the drugs being used are marijuana, nicotine, alcohol, and coke (less this year than last).

Mrs. Reeves estimated that about 10% of the students are addicted to smoking. Tobacco is also a fairly wide used drug, whether your in a bathroom, at a party, or just hanging down at Store 24, students can be found exhaling clouds of grey smoke or making puddles of brown goop. I would say that there is at least 30% of the student body smoking and/or dipping, and/or chewing tobacco even just very occasionally, that also being a pretty safe figure.

Mandy Tolson said that the number of students seeking services and suicidal incidents have increased. Whether it be themselves, family, or friends.

Mandy Tolson also said that more than 50% students have been or are sexually active. In the past three years there have been three pregnancies carried to term. Mrs. Reeves said that this year 1% of the students here are reported with STD's, last being 4-5%. The mostly the STD's reported are, chlamydia and venereal warts.



Sunday Breakfast Buffet begins 9:00 AM, Jan. 3

Bright Prospects cont. from 4

of the past. By expanding and promoting foreign markets they will expand the amount of money the U.S. makes. The more money we make, the more prosperous we will get. I believe Clinton will achieve this.

The Republicans for the past few years have concentrated on the foreign issues rather than the domestic ones. While as I stated above, the Foreign issues are important, I have one question. How can we try to take care of the rest for the world when we can't even feed all of our own children? I believe one must lead by example instead of words. We should help our country get its own starving and homeless people sheltered and working before we should try to defend every country that comes asking for help. The Democrats have promised to concentrate on the domestic issues.

In conclusion, I believe that Clinton's plan builds for the future. By working for better educations, and making it easier for our children to get a good education, he will build this countries knowledge. If this country is educated it will work towards new technology and improvements at a much faster rate.



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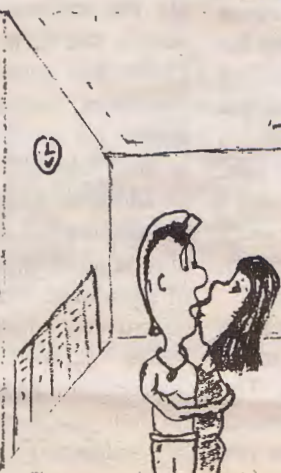
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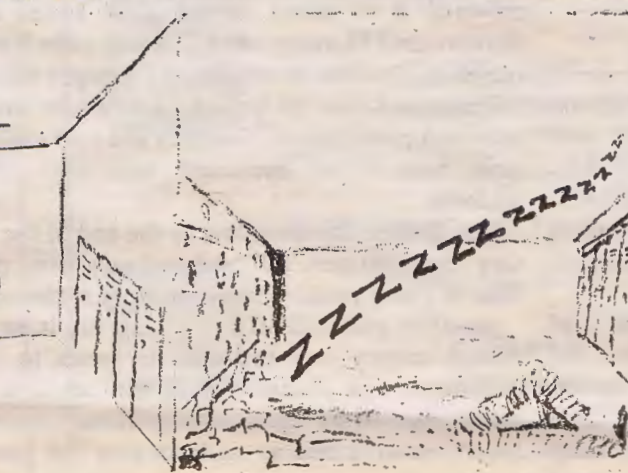
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Oooh. A little food fight under way.



Aaah! No P.D.A. here, folks. No sirree!



After nap time it's coloring, I s'pose.



Keeping order is my job. A-ha! SMOKE!

Features

Slave Day at ORHS

by Kim Goodman and Aaron Tyler

Senior Slave Day was held Thursday, December 3. About thirty seniors were rented at prices of 2, 3, or 4 dollars. The amount you paid decided what the senior had to do. The seniors had to do what they were told to by their "rentie." For \$2, a senior would carry your books and buy your lunch for you. For \$3, they would also dress up to your desire. And for \$4, your senior would also sing the song of your choice. A total of 120 was made by the senior class.

Seniors responses were:

"It brought the senior class together, we had fun, and it was worth it." -Dan Gault

"In this school were supposed to be so studious and serious, this day gave us a chance to break free from our mold." -Gabe Wallman



Students during Slave Day

S.E.A.L. at ORHS

by James Walsh

Although the battle for elections is done, the battle for our environment is far from over, and fighting for the side of mother earth is S.E.A.L. (Student Environmental Action League). S.E.A.L. is a student run organization dedicated to making people aware of their environment and the impact they make on it.

S.E.A.L. is mostly made up of freshmen and sophomores though every once in a while they see an upperclassman. This year the S.E.A.L. group has set many goals for their school environment. One goal is paper collection and recycling. Every Friday after school S.E.A.L. meets and collects paper out of all of the recycling boxes. Once all of the paper is

"It was a good way to make money for the senior class without having to put a lot of money into it."

-Phil Nazzaro

"I wish more people had been rented, but those who were, were pretty good sports." -Sara Shoemaker

"We all got a kick out of seeing each other. It was worth it." -Nicole Bellabona

"I liked seeing Dan in spandex and seeing Ian's belly-button."

-Darren Miller, (senior class vice-president)

"Some of the songs were rather lewd." -Darren Miller

"It took too much coaxing to get people on the stage."

-Scott Troxell

A positive reaction from a sophomore was:

"My slave followed through with what I wanted him to do and it was riot to watch." -Ryan Bellabona

A couple people were critical saying:

"Only two people went during first lunch, so I was disappointed because I couldn't get out of my fourth period class to go to second lunch." -Mali Welch

"People who rented seniors and were in first lunch couldn't even see them perform." -Robyn Desy

Aqua Velvet: Band Review

by Colleen O'Day

Black leather jackets and cheesy pop rock lyrics seem to be avoided by the members of the Oyster River band Aqua Velvet. This band has a distinct alternative flavor which is reflected in both the music and the personalities of the band members.

"We wanted to do jazz because no one does jazz in our age group or school," stated Aqua Velvet member Chris Weisman. The four original members of the band, Mike Merenda, Chris Weisman, Ben Stamper, and Rob Martin play a combination of jazz and a little bit of Latin music. The band originated when Rob and Chris decided that they wanted to start a jazz band that would be able to play around town. The band has frequently played at the espresso Bar and the Licker Store in Durham, and has performed at the Press Room in Portsmouth. "It's a big advantage being a jazz band as opposed to being a rock band because there are thousands of rock bands and not that many jazz bands," commented Mike Merenda. Aqua Velvet recently played during the intermission of the Oyster River play, "Any Number Can Die". Julie Pemberton, a

collected it is stored in the girls' locker room showers until Monday, when Durham picks it up for recycling. Student awareness of the paper recycling has increased over the last month which, in turn, has increased participation. Teachers and staff of ORHS have noticed the increased awareness of the students.

Mrs. Baxter, librarian, says by the end of the week they have two very full boxes of recyclable paper. That is a very positive response from students.

Another goal S.E.A.L. is aiming for is to raise enough money over the next few years to add a dishwasher and plastic trays to the cafeteria. The plastic trays would replace the styrofoam trays which have been criticized by students over the past few years.

Pat Laska, the kitchen staff director, sees no need



Matt Swanson Sings on Slave Day

Junior at Oyster River commented on the performance, "They seem to enjoy themselves on stage, and they have a lot of ability."

The members of the band write their own music, and occasionally improvise or play off each other while they are performing. "We really let go of any tensions or anxieties that would come out in the music. The music gives you the message that it's okay not to worry and just relax and be okay with yourself," stated Rob Martin. Aqua Velvet's music attempts to provide a low key, relaxed atmosphere. Mike Merenda describes his music as a way "to lighten the stress in the hearts of others."

The future of Aqua Velvet is questionable since Ben Stamper will be leaving for college next fall. For now, the band will continue to spread their unique music, as Chris Weisman stated, "People should get off their alternative kick and listen to some real alternative music like jazz."

for the dishwasher. "Styrofoam isn't as bad as people see it, it has no CFC's," stated Ms. Laska. There has been a decrease in the use of the styrofoam, and that is due to student action. One reason for not having a dishwasher is lack of room in the kitchen; To add one they would have to build an addition to the kitchen. Another issue regarding the dishwasher is the use of energy and resources may be more environmentally damaging than the use of styrofoam. The styrofoam issue remains a major controversy which S.E.A.L. is currently tackling.

The future of S.E.A.L. and our school environment looks brighter every day. Although they get their jobs done, more student involvement would be welcomed by the environmentally-minded organization.

Beastie Boys Concert Resembles Pro-Wrestling

by Jake Crosby

The crowd pulsed with excitement as MCA (Beastie Boys) raced across the stage spewing out rhymes. People were thrown about out of the slam pits, only to return for more abuse. Perspiration poured from the crowds faces, settling in their sweat-drenched clothes. Their ears pounding from the noise of the sound system behind them.

This was only three minutes out of a four hour concert performed by Da Lench Mob, The Rollins Band, and the Beastie Boys.

On Wednesday, November 3rd, about 2,000 fans crowded into the UNH Field House for a night of Hard Core entertainment.

The crowd waited outside in the frigid cold, only to be let in to the "blistering" heat of the Field House. They all crowded around the stage, battling for the best position, not knowing that they will all lose their spots to the pushing and squeezing of the crowd when the concert started.

"Frat boys, neo-Nazi skin heads, rappers, jocks, and head bangers," were all on hand for the occasion, "with the variety of music in this concert," said Chris Hansen and Amy Ulrich.

Home Economics: Adds Handi Crafts Class

by Candy Olson

One class that is somewhat new to our Home Economics Department is Clothing and Handy Crafts. "This is a class that is quickly growing in the Oyster River Community", says Mrs. Kishbaugh the Home Economics teacher.

When Mrs. Kishbaugh first got here there were no hands on handy craft classes. A half a dozen students wanted a class such as this so Mrs. Kishbaugh decided to start one. "The interest of handy crafts has grown tremendously," says Mrs. Kishbaugh.

Mrs. Kishbaugh said, "This class is very fun because the students are challenging themselves to do difficult projects." If you had seen the craft work done by the students in the display case last week you could see for yourself we have some really talented kids. This class helps express their creativity." Mrs. Kishbaugh has an abundance of craft experience and enjoys sharing her knowledge and techniques in class. "I did a lot of crafts in high school and college, but now that I'm teaching this class I'm doing things I've never done before".

According to Kishbaugh during the 1980's the craft trend went down the tubes because of manufacturing. It became very expensive to sew your own clothing. Then the ready mades became even more expensive so people began to sew their own clothes and crafts came back into effect.

A month ago Mrs. Kishbaugh went to a sewing conference for one week. She learned new techniques and saw a lot of technology. She learned how to make suits, jewelry, and lingerie. Mrs. Kishbaugh wants to convey her new skills and hopes some of the advanced technology will hit Oyster River. In the future she feels the class will become even more popular.

Da Lynch Mob opened first for the Beasties. This Hard Core rap band had a small rapper following, but everyone at the concert slammed (danced) to them. "The music was loud and the beat was hard, most lyrics weren't easy to understand, but most of the crowd didn't care," said Brian Fernald about Da Lench Mob.

Da Lench Mob played for about thirty minutes, preparing the crowd for the hard core Rollins Band. As The Rollins Band entered the stage the crowd erupted. Slam pits formed immediately, people cheered, yelled, and screamed towards The Rollins

Band.

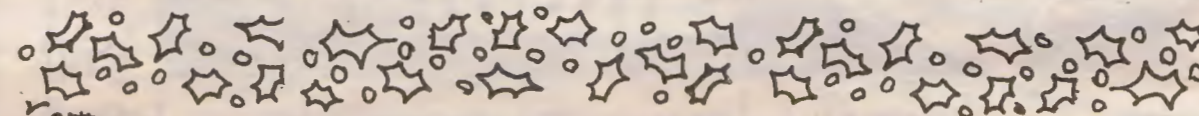
The Rollins Band had a heavy following. All eleven students from Oyster River enjoyed The Rollins Band. "I really liked them (The Rollins Band) because they were different, and they put on a good show," commented Tamara Collins.

After The Rollins Band there was a short intermission. After about a half-hour later, Ricky Powers, manager and good friend of the Beastie Boys came on stage and started talking "stuff" to the audience. He talked for about five minutes, explaining what he does for the Beastie Boys, then called the Beasties on stage. They came on with a roar, bringing all their fans to their feet. The crowd threw each other around, jumped on each other, tripped over each other to the pushing of everyone.

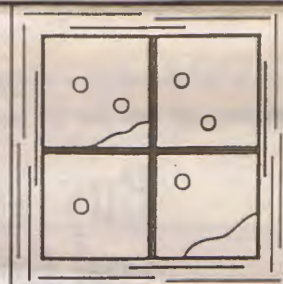
The Beastie Boys played a lot of their new stuff, off their newest album, "Check Your Head." They mixed in some older music off their older stuff before, "License To Ill." The Beasties also played some music from other bands, "They did an awesome cover of Minor Threats, "Screaming At A Wall" said Chris Hansen. "During their hardcore segment including a song off Polywog Stew, that was their best stuff that night."

They played for about an hour to an hour and a half, switching back and forth from vocals to instrumental music. They polished the concert off with "What Cha Want?" and the crowd, who were dead tired by now, gave that one last breath of air to slam to it.

Most of the complaints by the students who went to the concert was how loud the concert was, and the type of people who were at the concert. As Amy Ulrich said, "There was hardly any of the 'post-modern' crowd there. It was more of the over-excited, over-hormoned, over-drunk UNH studs."



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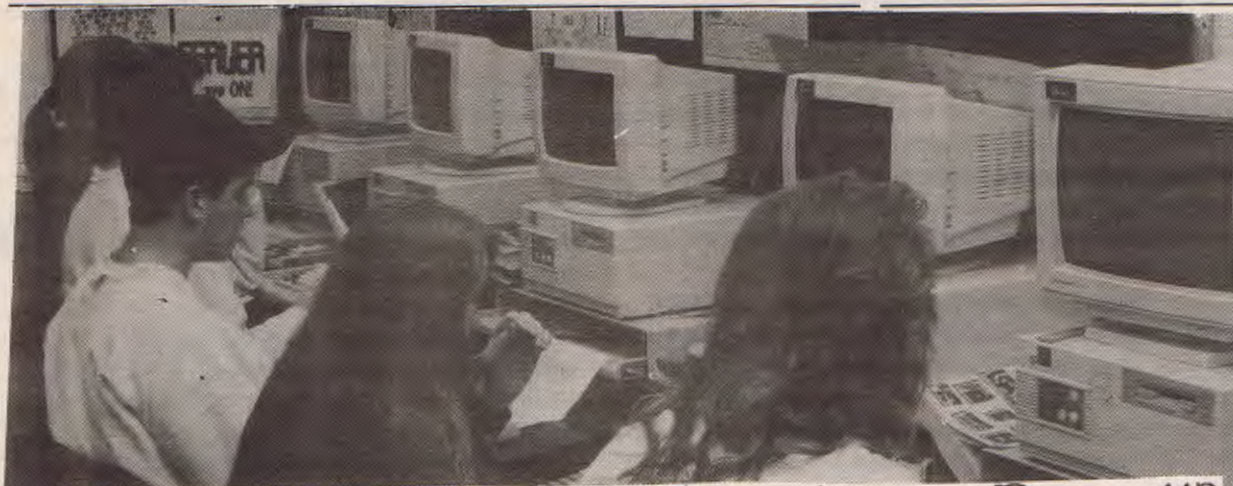


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Students Use the New Computers in Room 113

NEW COMPUTERS

by Dave Curtis

This year Oyster River is taking a bold step towards modernizing the technology in this school. Between loans from businesses and from money within the school budget, over a dozen computers have been brought into the school.

One system, the "Novell" Network in Room 113 consists of six computers and a laser printer. Five of the computers act as work stations, while the sixth acts as a file server.

According to Mr. Tappan, who headed the purchase, the main use of the system so far has been for word processing. The file server acts to store the work done at each station. This makes access easy and eliminates the use of floppy disks. The Journalism class uses the system to publish the school newspaper. The system also has the potential to "layout" the newspaper, although it has yet to be done, due to the complicated nature of the software. Mr. Tappan also said that "the system has the potential to link all of the computers in the building together." Then he added, "This would make access to information as well as software very easy."

Another idea that is being worked on is a technology lab in Room 4. According to Mr. Gasowski, who is heading the project, the lab is in the process of being created to give students a place where they can do everything from word processing

Computers cont. pg 9

Assemblies at ORHS

by Candy Olson

In the past years at ORHS we have an average of eight assemblies a year, of all types. In this school year Oyster River will have very few. Ms. Winterbottom predicts we will have about five assemblies this year.

Ms. Winterbottom stated "It's not a conscious decision". According to her fewer people have asked to have assemblies. Ms. Winterbottom feels the reasoning for this may be that everyone is on "overload". An example of this would be S.A.D.D. This group is doing a lot of different things with their time lately, such as the arrangement of the "Convincer" seminar. As for outsiders coming in to do assemblies she feels the reason may be the economy. Winterbottom commented, "The harsh economic times may be too bad for the outsiders to fund for the assemblies." But according to Student Council they have received many assembly proposals. The Council receives material from outside organizations wishing to perform assemblies at ORHS. According to members the material has been voted down. Vice President Nicole Bellabona said, "We've received several letters from heavy metal rock bands who are recovering drug addicts but last time it didn't go over well and we felt it wasn't worth the money." Ms. Winterbottom feels the students need to come forward to help the council to know what the student body finds interesting. According to council member Chris Hansen, "The bands and other assemblies we've received are cheesy and they're wicked expensive." Ms. Winterbottom says, "I would like to see more school wide activity." She also feels that the school should get together once a week for a school wide discussion." The whole student body would need to make a commitment to attend the discussions. The faculty would also need to attend instead of staying in their rooms. More assemblies could spark further activity like Earth Day and Career Day.

As for the behavior of the students Ms. Winterbottom says, "The students behavior doesn't interfere with the discussion of the assemblies."

The students have different opinions on this. Some students feel we don't have assemblies because they are boring. Others say it was the behavior of the students. Students hope to see different kinds of assemblies that bring the school together. Student Amanda Hansen said, "I'd like to see things that get the students involved, not just small groups." Others would like to see more police assemblies. The students said they really enjoyed the drunk driving assemblies.



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Condoms from pg 3

they have taken a wise course in not thinking that passing out condoms is the adult world's answer to young people as to how to deal with the complex moral and personal issues associated with their sexuality. I still think that the school nurse has the discretion to deal with the condom issue quietly and on an individual basis," stated Mr. Tappan.

Sexually transmitted diseases and the AIDS virus pose a common threat to all high school students engaging in sexual activities. "Teens have the highest percentage of STD's of any group in our country. According to many statistics, 70% of all high school students are sexually active," stated Mr. Mroz. Last year, 9% of the student body at Oyster River High School were infected with sexually transmitted diseases.

The school board's refusal to make condoms available has shocked and angered some of the students. "If the students get AIDS because the school didn't want to pass out condoms or if somebody gets pregnant then I hope the school feels good about themselves and what they have done," commented Casey Jones.

Some students feel that the board's decision has contributed to the uncaring atmosphere in the school. "The way things seem to be going I would not be surprised if someone will have to die before they let condoms into the school," stated Phil Nazzaro.

"A lot of kids don't have cars and they have no way to get to the store to buy condoms. The school board assumes that everyone can easily get condoms, which isn't true, and so people are having unprotected sex," stated Julie Pemberton.

In May of last year a petition was signed by 365 Oyster River students urging the school board to distribute condoms to the student body. The students also requested that they "be included in the proceedings to develop this school policy." Several meetings were held since May, including a public discussion session in June. Commentary about the condom issue was received through telephone calls, private meetings, letters, and literature. The school board also examined the program at Portsmouth High School where condoms are made available to the student body. It was concluded by the school board that this issue should not be considered alone, "but in the context of health and human sexuality, including attitudes and personal behavior."

School Board from pg 2

The school board's facilities committee is working on solutions for the overcrowding problem. The committee member are chairman David Penniman, Anne Ables, and Amos Townsend. At the committee meetings many ideas are discussed. Four major ideas were discussed at the last meeting.

The ideas were to: expand Mastway Elementary School and build new elementary school; expand Mastway and Moharimet Elementary School, move the elementary students out of Durham into those and correct the Middle school structure problems; the third is to find temporary housing for Oyster River Elementary students and fix the middle school; or finally reduce Oyster River Elementary to house the excess middle schoolers and buy modular classrooms to house the excess elementary students.

The minimum need is eight modular units and serious capital improvements, costing \$660,800. Focus groups are being formed to find alternative possibly more efficient ways to spend the money. "An alternative could be to concentrate K-4 or K-3 into Mastway and Moharimet elementary, and complete necessary expansions and capital improvements. Second turn the existing Oyster River Middle School and Elementary into a 5-8 or 4-8 school," commented senior class president Chris Jerard.

At this time the long range planning committee's figure show the high school at 630 students in 1996. The school board feels the school can hold 630! Why then was there 638 students in the high school in 1979. Can more be held at the high school? Who makes the decision, or is it a personal thought of the school board? So maybe in 1997 the high school will be over full. But what if it can hold more? By this time a new plan can be formed. If the school can hold more than that gives more time.

Not using numbers or knowing costs this plan sounds realistic and possible.

Movie Review: Under Siege Americans Greatest Fear

by Joel Preston

Shots are fired and Steven Segal is locked up in the ship's freezer under the ship's commanding officer's orders. Segal asks the guard outside the door what was going on after the sounds of gunshots. The guard responds by saying shut up, everything is fine.

"Under Seige" the newly released action thriller, takes place aboard The U.S.S. Missouri. The ship is taken over by a group of psychos who want revenge on the Navy. The ship's captain was going to have a going away party. He was old and thought it would be a small party and usual duties would continue. However he was wrong, his commanding officer ordered a stripper and a band to come aboard the ship by helicopter.

The movie is a great action packed suspenseful film, Steven Segal tries to overcome the "bad" crew who arrived as the "party" crew, unknown to the real crew of the ship.

Steven Segal is of course the star of the movie. He is famous for his great martial arts that he uses to whip his enemies. He makes quick work of any confrontation and is usually deadly. His enemies quickly receive the point that he is somebody not to mess with.

The movie is very patriotic, and gets your adrenalin pumping. Segal's quest is to gain the ship's control back from the intruding enemy which takes some time and his powerful, quick, punching energy. The movie is patriotic because Segal had to regain control over the ship from the people that betrayed the US Navy's oath and trust.

Another moment that grabs you is when the enemies find out that Segal is in the freezer. The commanding officer was the one that betrayed the Navy. He told the team that Segal gave him trouble. Segal really didn't like the commanding officer and showed no fear of his superiority over any one. Segal was just a cook in the ship's galley, but was unknowingly a trained Navy S.E.A.L.

The commanding officer turned against all others. He was the one that got the enemy crew past security. Segal gets his revenge with the enemy and commanding officer as well as save the ship. The enemy wanted to get rid of the threat and sent two men to kill him. The guard sent to watch Segal was shot as well as all of the other high ranking officers of the ship.

The movie's plot is based from real life situations that all Americans fear, "the military turning against the country". The action packed movie was very realistic and although the movie is a typical shoot'em up film, it has a message about loyalty which makes it worth seeing.

Computers from pg 8

to multimedia work with CD's, laser disks, as well as telecommunications, both within and out of the school. Mr. Gasowski also said, "I think we can get most of the Lab in place by the end of the school year."

The lab consists of five Macintosh Plus computers, a Macintosh LC, a Macintosh II as well as an Apple IIs computer and two Macintosh 512 Series computers. All of the computers can be linked together with the use of the Macintosh IIs computer which will act as a file server with the software "Apple Link."

As a further system, Mr. Gasowski added that the Macintosh IIs could then be networked with the "Novell" Network, thereby linking upwards of around seventeen computers together.

"The technology lab will be available to individual students or whole classes," said Mr. Gasowski. "When a class would like to use the lab, if I had a class, I could switch rooms with them."

The "Apple Link" system can also be hooked up to the UNH "internet" system. The Internet system is

a network of colleges and universities both in the states and internationally. Mrs. Kenter has been assigned one of thirteen accounts given to the district as a pilot to see if the system could be useful for grades K through 12. According to the "Netveiws" a newsletter for people with accounts on the system, the network has the possibilities for; Social and political studies, Science Research, Industrial technology, Language arts, Visual arts, Mathematics research, Computer science, Educational planning, and Business education.

So far the only hinderance to these projects have been the lack of time that faculty and students face around this time of year. Most students as well as teachers have had trouble finding time to work on getting the system hooked up.

TEEN VIEWS

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Oyster River Hockey: Successful Season?

by Seth DeForest

OR veteran hockey players are looking for a successful season following two disappointing winters. This team hopes experience and fundamentals will guide them to .500 or better record and a good playoff showing.

Last year's team compiled a 1-16-1 record which was disappointing to most players. However, a team of mostly juniors and sophomores found themselves taking on some of the best talent in the area. The benefit from last year's season was valuable experience and improved skills which the Bobcat players are hoping to thrive on this season.

With all returning players participation, the veterans look to lead the team to further rounds of the playoffs and a higher ranking in the seacoast and at a statewide level.

John Hill, one of the tri-captains, said, "Unlucky breaks, untapped skills, and the lack of experience is what held us back last year."

The team led by seniors John Hill, Owen Bruder, Scott Troxell, and Dan Gault, look to rely on experience, young player contributions, and two full returning line-ups to achieve their goals. When asked about this year's team, Scott Troxell

commented, "We have a lot of skill; it's a question of whether we can work together as a team. Junior co-captain Scott McGarrell added, "Players have gotten older and wiser and experience will be a great help to us."

Veteran leadership also promises to play a big part in this year's season. Junior co-captain Mike Merenda responded saying, "The veterans need to get an example in practice by hard work, be stricter with the rookies, and demonstrate teamwork."

Dan Gault said, "The veterans know what it's like to lose, and if anything our experience and dedication should guide the way for our young talent."

Another key factor for this year's squad is contributions by the younger players. There are nine underclassmen on this year's team and according to Scott McGarrell, "Anyway that our younger talent contributes will be a great help. But we can't expect a freshman or sophomore to come in and score 50 goals."

All veterans feel that this will be a great year for the hockey program. Most people are optimistic like Scott Troxell who said, "If everyone returns, then we could pose a threat to the seacoast and post an 11-7 or better record. Another saying, "We'll be probably about .500 and will be a strong contender in the

seacoast area." This would indeed be a tremendous improvement from the past year's disappointing season.

The hockey team apparently will perform this year if all these factors act as a positive. Dan Gault said, "We hope that a strong defense and a creative offense can combine to make a successful season." The season is already beginning to look successful after the results of three pre-season scrimmages and the Dover High Hockey Jamboree. In the scrimmages O.R. played York, Dover, and rival Saint Thomas. The bobcats beat both Dover and York while skating to a tie against St. Thomas. The team scored 18 goals on their opponents while allowing only 10. After these scrimmages a lot is expected of Junior Tucker Katz, who compiled 5 goals in the three games. Also freshmen standouts were Brian Tagliaferro and Brian Swift who combined to score 6 goals. While the defense led by tri-captains Scott McGarrell and Mike Merenda proved to be a force in keeping opponents away from the net. On December 12 the Bobcats played in the annual Dover Hockey Jamboree compiling a 1-0-2 record. Senior Owen Bruder scored the lone goal for the team against York when he tipped a blistering Merenda slapshot over the goalies head.

The Oyster River Cheerleaders Support the Boys Basketball team at Home. From left: Shara Varney, Jen Bratt, Jamie Smith, Sara Shoemaker, Lorie Anderson, and Nicole Beck



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HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Provisions

Sport Funding?

by Phil Nazzaro

Once again the fairness of athletic funding at ORHS is being questioned by members of the student body. When questioned on the topic, Mr. Nichols leapt to defend the budget.

Questioning of the budget is nothing new among athletes at ORHS. Despite administration efforts to prove the contrary, members of the teams still believe the funds could be more fairly distributed.

A member of the men's basketball team believes that "with the amount of money we (the basketball team) generate, we should get more". Members of other teams have also spoken out against, what they perceive as, budget inequities. A member of the softball team believes that they are considered second to the baseball team, and treated as such. Members of the indoor track team believe that the school should provide more in the way of transportation.

Through all the beliefs, there are facts. For school year 1992-93 the Athletic team with the highest budget is Boy's Basketball (Varsity and J.V.) with an allotted budget of \$5277.00. The sport with the lowest amount is cheerleading with a budget of \$360.00. Mr. Nichols, athletic director at Oyster River High School, remains firm in his belief that the team budgets are fair.

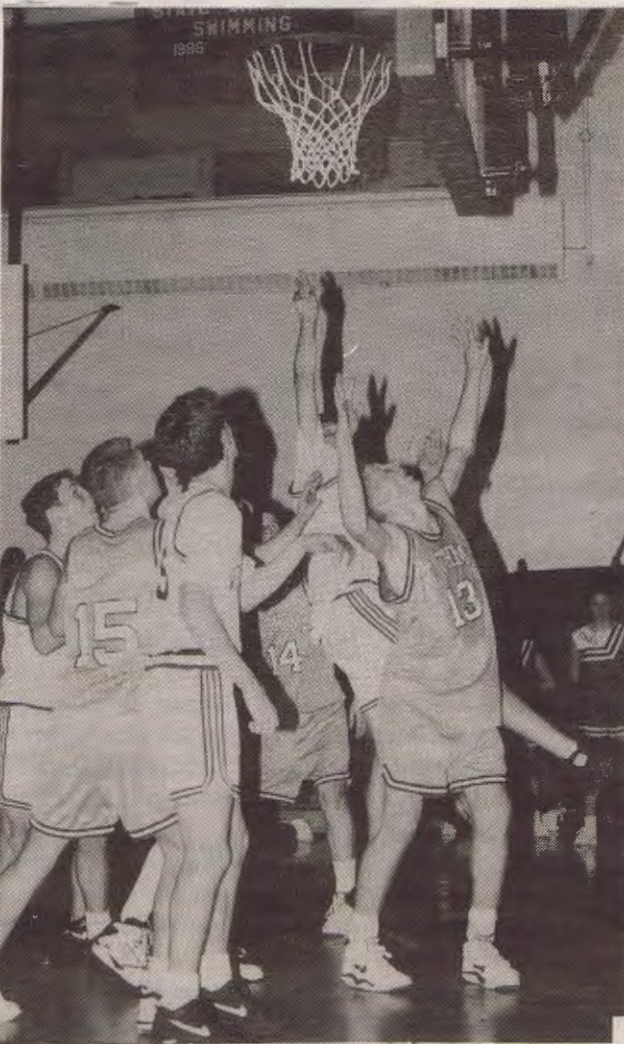
Mr. Nichols cautions people from taking the budget for one given year at face value. He points out one example that "a volleyball is two times (the price of) a soccer ball and a basketball costs more than both a volleyball and a soccer ball. Mr. Nichols also points out that new uniforms are not bought for each team in the same year, this creates some misconceptions while comparing the dollar total for each sport for only one year.

When asked about what safety precautions are taken to insure fair funding, Mr. Nichols listed all the steps that the budget must go through in order to be approved. After Mr. Nichols is done with the budget "the principle, the assistant superintendent and the school board all review the budget. And every ten years we go through accreditations.

Boys B-Ball

Can Bobcats Repeat State Title?

by Scott McGarrell



Spuratic play dropped the boys basketket ball team to 0-3 last saturday night. They lost to Lebanon 71 to 51, Milford 65 to 61, that loss follows a loss to St. Thomas 83 to 67. In the preseason the bobcats got off to a strong start winning the Captain Cote's Holiday Tournament over Thanksgiving, but did not fare so well in their own jamboree, losing both games.

Expectations not as high as last year's is the word around the basketball team this year, but it seems as though the confidence level is increasing with time and practice.

When asked how the tournament victory will help the confidence level, tri-captain Gabe Wallman responded, "People [team members] were listening to the people talking about us not having a good year. They were starting to believe it. Big boost in our confidence, but we still can't think that we can just go out and win, we have to work."

The team is much younger this year considering they're only returning three varsity players. So the question of experience comes up. Junior Seth Deforest commented, "It will take a couple of games for juniors to get feel of varsity level. I think that once that happens we'll contribute as much as possible."

Freshmen Keith Friel Takes
A Shot Over A Saint Thomas
Player

Nobody's come up with any problems (concerning budget fairness)."

Mr. Nichols was then informed that an unnamed member of the swim team was disturbed because the swim team budget only includes, in the swimmer's words, "caps and pool time". Mr. Nichols pointed out that certain uniforms "can't be handed down"; such as swim suits and baseball hats. He believes that the taxpayers shouldn't pay for something that one athlete will use and keep.

He concluded by saying that he would "like to have more money, but somebody's got to pay (if more money was to be used). If anybody has any problems (with the fairness of the athletic budget) they should see me (Mr. Nichols)."

IMPACT!!!

Dave Nichols Speaks about being Athletic Director

by Seth DeForest

"Hardworking, energetic, dedicated," These were the words echoed by many athletes, teachers, coaches, and staff when talking about our Athletic Director Dave Nichols. For more than five years Dave Nichols has been the man behind the scenes making all of the athletic programs run smoothly and effectively here at Oyster River. He is at school at times that average people are going to bed at night. "Dave puts forth in an incredible amount of time and energy, much more than anyone else," stated head boys basketball coach Don Maynard.

Mr. Nichols is not a person with one objective, that being to win and win only, but instead has many goals that have kept him working harder than ever as of late. When asked about his goals as an athletic director, he replied, "I look to see a greater degree of participation, and help meet the goals of the athletic department as a whole." In many ways Mr. Nichols has already achieved these goals; some ten teams have acquired state championships in class I during his work here. He has seen some of his athletes prosper and improve to play at the collegiate level and has made Oyster River High School one of the best athletically and academically inclined schools in the state of New Hampshire.

Dave Nichols is the first one to admit that he does not work alone. He is greatly assisted by a student athlete committee known as the Athletic Council and through delegation of coaches to help with many of the little things. The Council decides on Athlete of the Month honors, aid in class I decisions involving our school, and generally work hand in hand with Mr. Nichols to aid him in his many tasks. "Mr. Nichols works well with us, and is fair about distributing work amongst the council members,"

commented Mike Merenda, a member of the council. Mr. Nichols finds this council to be a great help in handling the many different jobs he encounters daily as an athletic director.

Dave Nichols is also not an A.D. that thrives on athletic excellence, but instead requires academic production from his athletes as well. For example, this fall 81% of all female fall athletes, and 63% of all male athletes made the Honor Roll. This is quite



remarkable seeing as the percentages in the school don't even come close to that. This is something that pleases Mr. Nichols immensely, and he finds statistics like these to be one of many rewards as an athletic director.

Mr. Nichols did not achieve all these goals, have a productive athletic council, and enjoy the rewards of his work without having to do what he considers

to be the hardest part of his job. Things like telling a student he/she is ineligible for sports due to academics, drug and alcohol violations, or because they disobeyed the athletic guidelines provide a lot of stress to his work. "These are the toughest jobs any A.D. encounters," commented Nichols himself. Yet Mr. Nichols still shows the class, respect, and non-bias when handling all of these types of situations. Mike Merenda explains one of these delicate situations, "A student at O.R. failed to acquire the passing grades (D-) in four of his classes. This made him academically ineligible to play sports for that season. This was a sticky situation considering it was this student's last year to shine as a High School athlete. However, the rules were set prior to this incident and they had to be followed." It is these situations in which being an Athletic Director becomes one of the worst jobs a person can have. Yet, Mr. Nichols says, "These situations must be handled according to the rules or rule breaking would become a popular occurrence."

Mr. Nichols has become a highly respected part of our community and our school due to his dedication, hard work, and energy everyday he enters this building. When asking Mr. Nichols about what makes him so successful most replies were identical. Junior Mike Merenda stated "His charisma and positive attitude along with his unintimidating personality make a great role model for our athletic programs." Sophomore Jaime Smith said "He stays in touch with students, cares about his athletes, and takes a great deal of interest in both." The attitudes of athletes around the school are agreeable to those found in coaches as Don Maynard commented "He's fair with all teams and looks out for the best interest

O.R. Sports

Issue 2

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Varsity Beats Alumni in Close Match

by Quincy Souza

Despite only having four practices the ORHS Boy's Varsity Basketball team defeated the Oyster River Alumni 64-58 with strong rebounding and positive attitudes over the Thanksgiving weekend.

On Friday, November 27th, the majority of the Alumni came back to play once again in the Bobcat gym. After only playing together for less than a week the team got prepared for the traditional game. When Senior Tri-Captain Jeff Stacy was asked on how the team perceived the Alumni game he commented, "We just look at the game as a scrimmage, it's more of a fun thing for us to get back together with guys we have played with." Senior Tri-Captain Garrick Olson added, "We see it as a starting point for a successful season."

Throughout the entire first half the teams went back and forth. Neither of the teams getting big leads. As a result the score at the end of the first half was OR 28 and Alumni 27. In the third quarter the Oyster River boy's used their good rebounding and strong defense to increase the margin of the lead to 10 points. At the end of the third quarter the Bobcats were ahead with a score of 50-37. However in the final quarter the Alumni fought back but fell short and lost to the Oyster River boy's 64-58.

The Bobcats had been together for four days when the Alumni game happened, with minimal preparation due to try-outs earlier in the week. When Mr. Maynard was asked on how he thought his team played, he answered, "They played really well together, better than expected, handling the game situation." He also added, "Gabe Wallman had a strong performance of 28 points and 15 for 17 from the free throw line." Tri-Captain Gabe

Wallman commented, "Everyone played hard and showed that they wanted to win."

The ORHS team has outnumbered the Alumni in wins in the past, but after coming off of a championship season not everyone was so optimistic. Gabe said, "We wanted to come out and show people that we still have a good team." He also commented, "There has been a lot of talk that this year's team will do poorly. We just wanted to let people know that this won't be the case."

The Alumni game has been a special and popular event at Oyster River for sometime. When 1992 Alumni Bryan Rutland was asked why it is such a special event he replied, "It is great to see everyone that you haven't seen in a while and also to play with your old teammates again." Alumni Mara Kearns added, "Everybody looks forward to it for the three months they're at school."

Alumni Scott Poteet said, "It is great to come back to see and play with all my old friends and to also see how the future of the Oyster River basketball will be."

The Alumni game has been in the Oyster River tradition for the past 13 years. According to Mr. Nichols at least 2/3 of the Alumni come back to play. When Mr. Nichols was questioned about the popularity of the Alumni game he replied, "It develops a tradition, that's what you do when you get back from college, it's a gathering point to see everyone once again."

Starting last year an extra Alumni game was added to the schedule. The old-timers game. Mr. Nichols commented, "The 1988 team was really disappointed that after 3 years they wouldn't be able to play, so, we invented this game for them and the other older Alumni."



Senior Andy Dumont Drives To The Hoop In Their Attempt To Beat Saint Thomas



Senior Holly Mackay Dribbles Up The Court Behind Nicole Wojick During One Of Their Practices

Oyster River Girls BBall High Hopes This Season

By Joe Burke and Julie Pemberton

Friday night the Girls basketball team lost a rough game at Milford 48 to 40. Milford's 6'4" center poured in 38 points to lead all scores. Jen Friel had 20 points and Stefany Shaheen didn't play because of pneumonia. Holly MacKay and Anita Pudil double teamed Milford's Center.

This loss dropped the Bobcats record to 3-1 their wins were over Sanborn 42-38 and an overtime win against Somersworth 73-66 and a win against St. Thomas 55 to 33. These wins build on the Bobcats 4-1-1 preseason. Their only loss was against Marshwood High School from Maine. The Bobcats tied Somersworth and won the rest of their league games.

"With four Senior captains the team has great leadership and they make it fun," comment Anita Pudil. The four captains are Liz Fernald, Jen Friel, Holly MacKay, and Stefany Shaheen. The starters are the four captains and Anita Pudil.

Coach Cathy Baker sees a good season in the making and commented "Everyone wants to play well and win, there are no negative forces."

Jen Friel sees more wins than losses. On the prospect of winning the state title Jen added "I'm not going to say it's impossible, but it would be tough."

When asked about teams strengths Coach Baker commented "Experience, having four seniors, returning players waiting to improve over last year, and enthusiastic freshman." Coach Baker added here outlook "I expect to do well if everyone stays healthy."